

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-44 were previously pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6-10, 18-19 and 39-42 have been amended. Claims 2-5, 11, 22-38 and 43-44 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-10, 12-21 and 39-42 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 8-9, 18 and 39-41 are independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because Figs. 1-6 have handwritten text. Enclosed herewith are formal drawings for replacement of the drawings as filed. Accordingly, approval of the drawings and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 10-12, 14-17, 19-24, 26-38 and 43-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Inoue et al. (US 5,673,103). Claims 11, 25 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Inoue et al. Claims 5-9, 13, 18 and 39-41 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2-5. Accordingly, amended claim 1 corresponds to allowable claim 5. Claims 2-5 have been canceled, and claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Allowable claims 8 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 11 has been canceled, and claims 10 and 13 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Allowable claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 19 has been amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Claims 22-38 have been canceled. Allowable claims 39-41 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 43-44 have been canceled, and claim 42 has been amended to depend from claim 39. Since all currently pending claims were indicated to be allowable, the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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